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Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the subject application:

Claims 1-54 (canceled)

55. (new) A method for monitoring performance of an image forming apparatus, said method comprising:

(a) continuously monitoring use of an image memory of the image forming apparatus, and calculating a memory usage rate of the image forming apparatus, wherein the memory usage rate is a percentage of a time period that a percentage of the image memory in use during said time period is within a corresponding predetermined range of percentages;

(b) storing performance measurement data corresponding to said memory usage rate calculated in (a);

(c) receiving a request for data transmission from a central data processing apparatus and in response to said request, reading said measurement data stored in (b) relating to said memory usage rate; and

(d) transferring said data read in (c) to said central data processing apparatus.

56. (new) The method of claim 55, wherein said image forming apparatus is connected to said central data processing apparatus via a telephone line network.

57. (new) The method of claim 55, wherein said image forming apparatus and said central data processing apparatus perform communications operations in accordance with a group 3 facsimile protocol.

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58. (new) A method for monitoring performance of an image forming apparatus, said method comprising:

(a) monitoring each image forming function of the image forming apparatus, and maintaining a corresponding count of a number of times that the image forming function of the image forming apparatus has been used;

(b) storing performance measurement data corresponding to said function usage counts maintained in (a);

(c) receiving a request for data transmission from a central data processing apparatus and in response to said request, reading said measurement data stored in (b) relating to said function usage counts; and

(d) transferring said measurement data read in (c) to said central data processing apparatus.

59. (new) The method of claim 58, wherein said image forming apparatus is connected to said central data processing apparatus via a telephone line network.

60. (new) The method of claim 58, wherein said image forming apparatus and said central data processing apparatus perform communications operations in accordance with a group 3 facsimile protocol.

61. (new) A method for monitoring performance of an image forming apparatus, said method comprising:

(a) measuring for each predetermined period of time a number of times that facsimile communications have been performed by the image forming apparatus during said predetermined period of time;

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(b) storing performance measurement data corresponding to said number of times that facsimile communications have been performed, measured in (a);

(c) receiving a request for data transmission from a central data processing apparatus and in response to said request, reading said measurement data stored in (b) relating to said number of times that facsimile communications have been performed; and

(d) transferring said data read in (c) to said central data processing apparatus.

62. (new) The method of claim 61, wherein said image forming apparatus is connected to said central data processing apparatus via a telephone line network.

63. (new) A method for monitoring performance of an image forming apparatus, said method comprising:

(a) monitoring line vacancy of the image forming apparatus and measuring an amount of time of line vacancy;

(b) storing performance measurement data corresponding to said amount of time of line vacancy measured in (a);

(c) receiving a request for data transmission from a central data processing apparatus and in response to said request, reading said measurement data stored in (b) relating to said amount of time of line vacancy; and

(d) transferring said data read in (c) to said central data processing apparatus.

64. (new) The method of claim 63, wherein said image forming apparatus is connected to said central data processing apparatus via a telephone line network.